THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SATURDAY • AUGUST 17, 2024 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 22 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress
twitter.com/newindianxpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

DELHI HC CLIPS WFI, DISSOLUTION OF AD-HOC PANEL 'UNWARRANTED'

The court has asked WFI to abstain from administering and managing the day-to-day activities with immediate effect

AD-HOC PANEL BACK IN PLAY FOR WRESTLING

The Delhi High Court restored the IOA's ad-hoc committee's mandate for Wrestling Federation of India on an earlier plea by wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Satyawart Kadian. A multi-member panel is to be formed by the Indian Olympic Association to ensure day-to-day running of the sport in the country

HARD TO PREDICT WHAT FUTURE HOLDS: VINESH

- Vinesh Phogat, who retired last week, wrote in an emotional post, "I can't predict what the future holds for me... but I am sure that I will continue to fight always for what I believe in and for the right thing."
- Under 'different circumstances', the 29-year-old said in a long statement, '... could see myself playing till 2032'. P17

WFI

THE WRESTLING BODY WILL CHALLENGE THIS HIGH COURT ORDER

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Order against SBI, PNB on hold for 15 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE state government has kept its order stopping all transactions with the State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) on hold for 15 days after the banks sought time to resolve all issues.

"On August 16, both banks submitted written representations to the government, requesting a 15-day period to resolve the issues. The same day, senior bank officials met officials of the Finance Department and reiterated their request.

After considering the banks' request, the chief minister directed the officials to keep the circular in abeyance for 15 days," said a statement issued by the government.

"This will give the two banks sufficient time to address the issues and redress the concerns of the government," the statement said.

Based on the observations made by the Public Accounts Committee on July 2 and August 6, and the findings in the Comptroller and Auditor General's report, the government decided to issue the circular directing all its departments to withdraw their deposits from all branches of PNB and SBI.

According to the statement issued by the government on Friday, the action was taken in view of the alleged fraud in some branches of the banks, which resulted in non-repayment of fixed deposits made by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB). Despite prolonged correspondence and meetings, these issues remained unresolved since 2012-13.

The government is committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in all its dealings, it will continue to monitor the situation and take appropriate action to protect the interests of all stakeholders, the statement said.

J&K to get govt after 10 yrs, poll dates out

Schedule for Haryana also announced; BJP faces resurgent opposition in first major election after the Lok Sabha polls

FAYAZ WANI & HARPREET BAJWA
@ Srinagar/Chandigarh

SETTING the stage for the first popularity test after the Lok Sabha elections, the Election Commission of India on Friday announced the Assembly election schedule for Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana. Elections in J&K will be held in three phases starting September 18, while Haryana polls will be held on October 1. Results of both elections will be out on October 4.

Of the 90 seats in Jammu and Kashmir, 24 seats will go to the polls on September 18 in the first phase, 26 seats in the second phase on September 25, and 40 in the third and final phase on October 1. All 90 seats in Haryana will go to polls on October 1.

The announcement comes months after the Supreme Court upheld the Centre's decision to scrap J&K's special status and directed that Assembly elections be held by September 30.

This would be the first polls in the J&K Union territory after abrogation of Article 370. The polls would end the six-year central rule in Jammu and Kashmir.

Almost all political parties welcomed the EC's announcement.

Assembly polls in J&K were last held in November 2014 when the PDP and the BJP formed a coalition government led by Mufti Mohammed Sayeed. His death in 2016 led to Mehbooba Mufti becoming the CM. The BJP pulled out of the government in June 2018 and the state was put under governor's rule. The assembly was dissolved in 2018.

In Haryana, the BJP is hopeful of forming government for the third consecutive time but it needs to counter a resurgent Congress, which is looking to cash in on the anti-incumbency factor. Apart from the BJP and Congress, the Jannayak Janta Party, Indian National Lok Dal and the Aam Aadmi Party are also set to field their candidates, making it a multi-cornered contest in Haryana.

Early this year, the BJP had replaced Manohar Lal Khattar with Nayab Singh Saini as CM to counter anti-incumbency. Saini will be the BJP's CM face for the assembly polls.

Both elections are crucial for the BJP, which is looking to improve its image after its less-than-expected performance in the Lok Sabha polls.

The saffron party is looking to retain power in Haryana and put up a strong show in Jammu and Kashmir, where its strongholds have been traditionally confined to the Jammu division. P9

Now, people will come out in large numbers to participate in the elections

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah

MAHA POLLS LATER

The EC said Maharashtra Assembly polls will be announced later, citing the need for additional security forces in Jammu and Kashmir elections

PUNE

NEW DELHI

PATNA

PIC VINOD KUMAR T

BENGALURU

Resident doctors stage protests seeking justice for the doctor who was raped and murdered at a Kolkata hospital | PTI

HC whiplash at govt's failure to deal with Kolkata mob

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @ Kolkata

THE Calcutta High Court on Friday came down like a ton of bricks on the West Bengal administration for its abject failure in handling a midnight mob that ransacked the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata and terrorised its staff.

The mob attack happened at a time when a massive midnight protest was on elsewhere in the city over the horrific the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in the hospital on August 9.

The court directed the police and the hospital authority to file affidavits on the incident.

A division bench presided by Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam said it was hard to believe that the police intelligence did not have information about the gathering of 7,000 people at the health facility, when the state's lawyer told the court the administration did not expect such a massive mob in the wee hours of Thursday.

The bench said the police should place on record the entire sequence of events that led to the vandalism in the hospital. "You pass Section 144 of the CrPC orders for any reason. When so much commotion is going on, you should have cordoned the area. 7,000 people can't come walking," the bench said.

It also directed the CBI to file an interim report on the progress of investigation into the rape and murder of the woman doctor.

Meanwhile, the CBI questioned Dr Sandip Ghosh, former principal of RG Kar, in the rape and murder of the trainee doctor. He was picked up around 8.30 am and taken to the CGO complex in Salt Lake for interrogation. The CBI had summoned Ghosh several times for questioning, but he had been evading them.

Seen as close to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Ghosh is facing several charges.

Mamata, who led a protest march demanding justice for the doctor, accused the CPI(M) and the BJP of orchestrating vandalism at the hospital. The BJP, too, staged rallies across the state, demanding Mamata's resignation. P10

HC JUDGE: LAW & ORDER SITUATION FAILED

"If police are injured, they are unable to control the mob, then the law and order situation has failed," the Calcutta HC said, adding it was a "sorry state of affairs" if the police could not protect their own

MAMATA: BID TO HIDE THE TRUTH VIA FAKE NEWS

"We want the truth to come out. Attempts are being made to hide the truth by circulating fake news. We condemn it. We want the culprits to be punished," Mamata said

NATIONWIDE STIKE: STATE DOCS BACK IMA CALL

All medical services in Karnataka, except emergency care, will be hit from 6 am on Saturday to 6 am on Sunday as doctors will join the nationwide strike called by IMA | P5

UPROOTED TREE CLAIMS LIFE OF AUTO DRIVER IN B'LURU

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

SPELLS of heavy rain on Friday evening cost the life of an autorickshaw driver after a gulmohar tree fell on his vehicle near MC Layout in Vijayanagar.

The victim, Shivarudraiah (49), is survived by wife and two daughters.

BLG Swamy, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, said, "The autorickshaw driver, Shivarudraiah, had sustained injuries in the head, leg and private parts. BBMP officials rushed to the spot, shifted him to a nearby hospital and later to Victoria Hospital. But doctors declared him dead on arrival." The ex-gratia will be released to the victim's family members as per Palike norms by the west zone commissioner, he added.

BBMP teams were pressed to clear uprooted trees and branches at Majestic, RR Nagar and MS Palya.

This is the second such incident this year. On August 12, six persons, including four schoolchildren, were injured after a tree fell on them at Jai Bharath Nagar in Sarvajna Nagar. The children suffered minor injuries, a two-wheeler rider, Manikyavel suffered grievous injuries and a woman, Vijayalakshmi, had fractured her thigh bone.

The autorickshaw on which a tree fell, killing its driver Shivarudraiah in Vijayanagar on Friday

HURDLES CLEARED

Experts install one stoplog at TB reservoir

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Hosapete

AFTER facing hurdles on Thursday, the experts' team removed the beam and the hoist bridge (skywalk) and installed one of the five stoplogs at crest gate No 19 of the TB dam on Friday.

With this, the team members are confident of completing the stoplog installation work by Saturday evening. They removed the beam and the hoist bridge with the help of two heavy duty cranes. However, they could not fix the metal stoplog manufactured by JSW Steel Ltd's local plant because of some design error. Four stoplogs manufactured by two other companies are error-free.

N Kannaiah Naidu, hydro-mechanical engineer, who is leading the team, said after identifying two major technical errors, the beam and the hoist bridge atop the crest gate were removed. "We are trying to minimise the flow of water from the dam. My team is working hard to install the stoplogs," he added.

"Three stoplogs are ready for installation. By Saturday evening, they will be installed. The crest gate will have five stoplogs," he said.

A senior official from the TB dam board said 72 tmcft of water storage was recorded on Friday evening. The team has promised to complete the installation work by Saturday evening. P4

He (Yunus) assured protection, safety and security of Hindus and all minorities in Bangladesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

GLOBAL SOUTH MEET

Muhammad Yunus accepted PM Modi's invitation to join the virtual Third Voice of Global South Summit, being hosted by New Delhi on Saturday. The previous editions of the Summit saw the robust participation of over 100 countries from the Global South

Yunus dials Modi, says reports on minorities 'exaggerated'

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

BANGLADESH Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus on Friday called Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the first direct communication between the two after the Nobel Laureate assumed charge on August 8. Modi congratulated Yunus on his new role and asked him to ensure the safety of Hindus in Bangladesh.

"Received a telephone call from Professor Muhammad Yunus. Exchanged views on the prevailing situation. Reiterated India's support for a democratic, stable, peaceful and progressive Bangladesh," said PM Modi.

Yunus said his interim government is committed to safeguarding every citizen of the country, including the minorities. "Situation in Bangladesh has been brought under control and is becoming normal," he said.

During his talk with Modi, Yunus termed the reports of attacks on the minorities 'exaggerated', said a statement from Dhaka. He also offered to invite Indian journalists to visit Bangladesh and report on the actual ground situation in the country.

NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

KGF 2, Kantara shine, South Indian films retain hot streak

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

THE 70th National Film Awards announced on Friday reflected the continuing hot streak of South Indian cinema since last year. Malayalam film Aattam won the Best Feature Film award, Rishab Shetty bagged the Best Actor award for Kantara while Nithya Menen (Thiruchitrambalam) shared the Best Actress award with Manasi Parekh (The Kutch Express).

Ponniyin Selvan I won several key awards, including Best Music Direction-Background Score (AR Rahman), Best Sound Design (Anand Krishnamoorthy), and Best Cinematography (Ravi Varman). This is AR Rahman's seventh National Award, the most for any music director in India. In the crew awards section, Jani and Sathish Krishnan won the Best Choreography Award for their work in Thiruchitrambalam (Megam Karukatha). Films like KGF Chapter 2, Brahmastra Part I, and Fouja also won awards in key categories.

Apart from the Best Film award, Aattam won the Best Editing award (Mahesh Bhuvanend) and Best Screenplay award (Anand Ekarshi). The latter was shared with the Hindi film Gulmohar.

Responding to the win, Aattam director Anand Ekarshi said, "It feels surreal to even think that our film has won among 300 submissions... To win three awards at the national level is quite overwhelming." On the other hand, Anand Krishnamoorthy, who won the Best Sound Design Award for Ponniyin Selvan I revealed that he was not aware of the winners list being announced on Friday.

He said, "I'm quite thrilled about the award. There were no expectations but as a team, we knew that we had done good work. There was a time during the post-production during which AR Rahman sir and I took both of our materials and worked together. The working process with Rahman sir was very enjoyable, so the fact that both background music and sound design have been recognised makes us all the more happy."

Brahmastra Part I has won in three categories including Best Music Direction (Pritam), Best Playback Singer (Arijit Singh for Kesariya), and Best Film in AVGC.

Arijit Singh shared the Best Playback Singer award with Bombay Jayashree for her work in Saudi Vellakka (Chaayum Veyil). Best Director was given to Sooraj Barjatya and Best Actor in a Supporting Role went to Neena Gupta, for their respective works in Uunchai.

CONTINUED ON: P5

EXPRESS READ

Major secretary-level reshuffle at Centre

New Delhi: Senior bureaucrats Punya Salila Srivastava and Rajesh Kumar Singh have been appointed health and defence secretaries, as part of a major bureaucratic reshuffle by the Centre on Friday. Srivastava, now special secretary in the PMO, will join the Health and Family Welfare Department as OSD.

Centre clears Bengaluru Metro Phase-3 project

Bengaluru: The Union Cabinet gave the green signal to Bengaluru Metro's Phase-3 project on Friday. The deadline for the project is 2029. P2,9